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AD/OSI

9 February 1951

NED

Organization of New Special Commodities Division in ORR.

1. It has been brought to our attention that a new Special Commodities Division is being organized in ORR. In the early discussions regarding the establishment of such a group we made the comment that it would be very beneficial to our work if we could give certain intelligence projects, which are not directly within an atomic energy program but yet connected in some way, to other units. These projects would include such things as: Study of USSR Nitrogen Plants, Study of USSR Super-Phosphate Plants, Study of USSR Graphite Plants, Study of USSR Petroleum Industry, etc. We have had to make such studies in the past to determine which of the various plants in a certain industry were supplying atomic energy materials, because no other division was able to give us the type of information which we required. We feel that the new division should not, however, become involved in things which are strictly confined to nuclear energy and which we are now handling. Some of these general items which we handle are as follows:

- a. Uranium
- b. Thorium
- c. Rare earths as connected with atomic energy.
- d. Beryllium as connected with atomic energy.
- e. Pure calcium as connected with atomic energy.
- f. Heavy water
- g. Lithium as connected with atomic energy.
- h. All fissionable elements and isotopes.
- i. Special equipment used in atomic energy plants.
- j. Nickel industry as connected with atomic energy.
- k. Production and employment of nuclear weapons.
- l. Pure magnesium as connected with atomic energy.
- m. Pure synthetic graphite as connected with atomic energy.

2. According to recent discussions the new Special Commodities Division is tentatively being set up to handle certain non-ferrous metals, including uranium and thorium, from an economic approach. We feel that this is a mistake and would result in useless duplication. We would like to be able to farm out various projects, which we do not normally handle, to other divisions. We require more support in various industrial fields and feel that ORR could help us a great deal in this. The projects would be very broad and it is not possible to set forth any definite fields which should be covered. As far as we are concerned, our needs would change from time to time and cover a wide variety of industries. Examples of our present needs are as follows. Special studies on:

- a. Soviet Nitrogen and Fertilizer Industry.
- b. Soviet Super-Phosphate Plants and Industry in general.
- c. Soviet Graphite Industry.
- d. Specialized products of the Soviet Petroleum Industry.

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- e. The Chemical Industry of the USSR and Satellites producing nitric acid, sulphuric acid, hydrochloric acid, oxalic acid, hydrofluoric acid, perhydrol ether, sodium carbonate and hydroxide, etc.
- f. Gold Industry of the USSR.
- g. Soviet Chemical Machine Industry.
- i. That portion of the Soviet Tin Industry producing a pure tin.

Some of these would be continuing fields and others would only be for a single detailed study. After a certain study has been made and if the information indicated that certain plants of an industry are connected with the Soviet Atomic Energy Program, we would then begin to collect all pertinent intelligence material on these plants.

3. It is believed that there are already various divisions in ORR which now cover most of the fields in which we might have some interest and our requirements could be satisfied by these existing divisions providing they had more personnel. If a special division is created to work on projects which we or other divisions farm out to them, the new division will be working on fields which are, in the majority of cases, already covered in ORR by some other division.

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